

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 26, 31, 36, 41 and 71-75 have been amended. Claims 1, 46-70 and 76-104 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 2-45 and 71-75 are pending.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-4, 25, 46-49, 70 and 71 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-3, 5, 14, 26-29, 39 and 41 of copending application number 10/376,156. Further claims 76 and 81-84 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1 and 29-32 of copending application number 10/376,127. Applicants acknowledge the double patenting rejection, but because these rejections are provisional at this time, Applicants will defer addressing the rejection until double patenting rejections are no longer provisional.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 20, 41, 65, 75, 80 and 100 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 65, 80 and 100 have been canceled. Therefore, the objections to claims 65, 80 and 100 are moot. Claims 20, 41 and 75 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(c)

Claims 1-4, 25, 46, 47, 70, 71, 76, 81 and 82 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,759,646 issued to Acharya, et al. (*Acharya*). Claims 1, 46, 47, 70, 76, 81 and 82 have been canceled. Therefore the rejection of claims 1, 46, 47, 70, 76, 81 and 82 is moot. Claims 2-4, 25 and 71 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 25 and 71 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 46, 48, 81 and 83 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,212 issued to Zigaldo, et al. (*Zigaldo*). Claims 46, 48, 81 and 83 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 46, 48, 81 and 83 is moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 49 and 84 were rejected as being unpatentable over *Zigaldo*. Claims 49 and 84 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 49 and 84 is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 5-24, 26-45, 50-69, 72-75, 77-80 and 85-104 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Several of claims indicated as including allowable subject matter have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 2-45 and 71-75 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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/Paul A. Mendonsa/
Paul A. Mendonsa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,879

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 439-8778